



*California's protection and advocacy system*

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## **ALTERNATIVE CUSTOMIZED PROGRAM OPTION<sup>1</sup>**

These changes are included in the Budget Trailer Bill. They will be effective when the Budget is approved, unless the language is changed by the legislature.

### **How the Law Changed**

Regional centers currently fund services and programs that consumers can participate in during the day. Some programs provide opportunities to work. The law requires the development of another option. The alternative customized program is an option for consumers who want to develop or maintain a job or do volunteer activities instead of their current day program. The regional center can fund anywhere from 20 to 80 hours for this option per month, depending on the individualized need of the consumer.

Starting July 1, 2009, the following service providers must offer an alternative customized program option:

- behavior management
- activity center
- adult development center adult day programs
- community integration training programs
- community activities support services programs

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<sup>1</sup> The changes are part of the Budget Trailer Bill AB x3 45.

You may find the law at [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_0001-0050/abx3\\_45\\_bill\\_20090628\\_amended\\_asm\\_v98.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx3_45_bill_20090628_amended_asm_v98.html)

The changes affecting Alternative Customized Program Option are found in Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 4688.2.

If you want to participate in the alternative customized program, you can request for an Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. At your next IPP meeting, the regional center must give you information and make this option available to you. The alternative customized program is only an option. At your IPP meeting, you can choose: 1) to continue with your current day services; 2) the new custom alternative option 3) or ask the regional center for other service options.

### **What Should I Do If the Regional Center Wants to Change My Services and You Disagree?**

If your regional center wants to change the services you receive during the day, it must hold an IPP meeting.<sup>2</sup> At the meeting, the IPP team must discuss the alternative customized program with you and ask you whether you want to participate.

If after the IPP meeting, the regional center makes a decision you do not agree with, the regional center must give you a written notice of its decision. The notice must be given 30 days before the change begins.<sup>3</sup>

If you want to continue to receive the services, you must request a fair hearing. If you want to continue to receive your current services, you must request a hearing within 10 days of receiving the notice.<sup>4</sup> Otherwise, the request must be made within 30 days.<sup>5</sup>

For more important information on how to appeal decisions by the regional center, read our fact sheet, Due Process and Hearing Rights.

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<sup>2</sup> See Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.4 (a) - (c).

<sup>3</sup> See Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4710.

<sup>4</sup> See Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4715.

<sup>5</sup> See Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4710.5 (a).